

From: Bloomberg Environment - Environment & Energy Report [bloomberg@bna.com]
Sent: 8/3/2019 11:01:41 AM
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Subject: Environment & Energy Report Highlights

**Bloomberg
Environment**

**ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
REPORT**

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Highlights

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: THIS WEEK AT EPA/INTERIOR

[Ex-EPA Chief Pruitt's Superfund Task Force Quietly Ends \(1\)](#)

By Sylvia Carignan

At the end of its two-year run, the EPA's Superfund task force is going out like a lamb.

[Trump's Interior Inspector General Pick Confirmed by Senate \(1\)](#)

By Dean Scott

The Senate Aug. 1 confirmed Mark Lee Greenblatt to be the Interior Department's next inspector general responsible for investigating and monitoring the department's internal operations.

[IG's Zinke Investigation Combined With Criminal Probe](#)

By Giovanna Bellotti Azevedo and Jennifer A. Dlouhy

An inspector general investigation of former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's use of a private email account for official business has been folded into a

criminal probe by the Justice Department, according to a letter from the department's inspector general.

Interior Won't Regulate Toxic Pollution from Coal Mine Blasting

By Bobby Magill

The Interior Department is walking back its 2015 pledge to regulate toxic pollution generated by the use of explosives at open-pit coal mines.

EPA Now Stress-Testing Plan to Reshape Regional Offices

By Stephen Lee

The EPA is running tests on the reorganization of its regional offices to see if the plan is making the 14,000-person agency more effective and consistent, an agency official said.

THIS WEEK IN NATURAL RESOURCES

'Trumpian' BLM Chief Expected to Open Development Floodgates (1)

By Bobby Magill

The Bureau of Land Management is about to open public lands to oil, gas, mining, and road construction as an outspoken opponent of federal land ownership takes the helm of the agency, former Interior Department officials and advocacy groups said July 30.

Environmental Groups Criticize Sage Grouse Plans (2)

By Bobby Magill

Environmental groups are accusing the U.S. Forest Service of dismantling sage grouse conservation plans developed under the Obama administration.

States' Challenge to Interior's New Bird Policy Advances

By Porter Wells

The Interior Department will have to keep defending a suit seeking to overturn its conclusion that a century-old federal law doesn't criminalize accidental harm to migratory birds.

Grassley Wants to Turn Up Heat on Controversial Land Deals

By Kaustuv Basu

The Senate's top tax-writer said that he still hasn't received all the information he requested from people involved in controversial tax-advantaged land preservation deals known as syndicated conservation easements.

Uganda Sets Life Prison Terms for Poachers in New Wildlife Law

By Wachira Kigotho

A new wildlife law in Uganda sets stringent penalties that will hand life sentences to poachers of endangered wildlife species threatened with extinction.

THIS WEEK IN CHEMICALS

EPA Shrinks Childrens' Safety Margin for Class of Pesticides

By Adam Allington

The Environmental Protection Agency is removing childrens' protections from a common class of pesticides because it says they are no longer warranted.

Firefighter Protections Join Slew of PFAS Legislation in Senate

By Sylvia Carignan

Senators on both sides of the aisle are supporting a new bill that would protect firefighters from exposure to chemicals in firefighting foam.

Bayer Jury Awards on Roundup Underscore Legal Rift Over Science

By Adam Allington

Jurors have sided with plaintiffs in all three cases over Bayer AG's herbicide Roundup to go to trial so far, finding that glyphosate causes cancer and awarding a total of more than \$2.2 billion in damages.

Toxic Chemical Exposure Higher Than EPA Calculated, Advisers Say (1)

By Pat Rizzuto

Workers and wildlife are more highly exposed to a hazardous flame retardant than the EPA has estimated, agency science advisers said Aug. 1.

EU Agency Says Pesticide Reviews Should Consider Risks to Bats

By Stephen Gardner

The European Union's pesticide risk assessments should consider the plight of bats, which could be exposed to the chemicals when they forage across farmland or roost in nearby buildings, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) said.

THIS WEEK IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

Colorado Provides Climate Change Road Map, Governor Says (1)

By Tripp Baltz

Colorado's renewable energy goals and greenhouse gas reduction targets provide a road map for other states as the U.S. confronts the global climate crisis, Gov. Jared Polis (D) said.

No 'Right to Wilderness' to Force Government Action on Climate

By Porter Wells

A federal judge in Oregon declined to recognize a constitutional "right to wilderness" that could be used to force government action to mitigate climate change.

Oil and Gas Sector Says It's Cutting Methane But Critics Unsure (1)

By Stephen Lee

The oil and gas industry said it is doing a good job of self-policing its methane emissions, but the announcement drew immediate pushback from environmentalists who argue the sector still emits millions of tons of the potent greenhouse gas each year.

New York Climate Action Plan Held Up by Less-Publicized Bill (1)

By Keshia Clukey

Implementation of New York state's aggressive climate action plan could be delayed because of its link to a less-publicized environmental justice bill that Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) hasn't signed yet.

THIS WEEK IN AIR POLLUTION NEWS

EPA New Source Review Plan Gives Companies Air Permitting Relief

By Amena H. Saiyid and David Schultz

Power plants, refineries, and other industrial factories may obtain some relief from the cost of obtaining air pollution permits as the EPA calls for changing the way it calculates emissions.

EPA Oversight of Fine Particle Air Pollution Tests Found Lacking (2)

By Amena H. Saiyid

The EPA must fix problems with how it oversees smokestack tests for fine particle pollution, especially in Region 10 in the Pacific Northwest, the agency's watchdog concluded in a July 30 audit.

THIS WEEK IN WATER NEWS

EPA Won't Preempt Supreme Court on Groundwater Pollution

By David Schultz and Stephen Lee

The EPA won't move forward with a rewrite of its regulations on groundwater pollution, instead waiting until the Supreme Court issues a ruling on the issue, the agency's top water official said.

Environmental Groups Want EPA's 'Lax' Lead Standard Reviewed (1)

By Martina Barash

The Sierra Club and other environmental groups want the Ninth Circuit to review the Environmental Protection Agency's recently issued standards for "dust lead," including a decision not to change the definition of lead-based paint.

Water Testing for 'Forever Chemicals' Expands in California (1)

By Emily C. Dooley

California's ability to investigate persistent nonstick chemicals in drinking water is expanding after Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) signed a bill granting new powers to its water agency.

Clearer U.S. Federal Water Regulations Sought With Senate Bill

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

Republican Sens. Mike Braun (Ind.) and Joni Ernst (Iowa) are introducing legislation they say will create a more robust, clearer definition of which waterways are subject to federal regulation, responding to concerns from farmers, homebuilders, and developers.

Wisconsin Governor Targets Groundwater Nitrate Contamination (2)

By Stephen Joyce

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) instructed state agencies to craft new rules to combat nitrate contamination of the state's groundwater as part of a push to improve drinking water quality.

States Bypassing EPA to Crack Down on Coal Waste (2)

By Sylvia Carignan and Stephen Joyce

Illinois has joined North Carolina and Virginia in sidestepping uncertain federal requirements for handling coal plant waste by taking stricter state-level action that doesn't involve the EPA.

New EPA Lead Standards to Give Utilities Wide Latitude (1)

By David Schultz

A forthcoming EPA overhaul of standards for lead in drinking water will essentially ban partial lead pipe replacement, in which part of a lead pipe is removed but another part is allowed to remain, Bloomberg Environment has learned.

Senator Seeks Action from FDA on PFAS in Bottled Water

By David Schultz

A Democratic senator is calling on the FDA to regulate the presence of persistent nonstick "PFAS" chemicals in bottled water, weeks after a New England water bottler experienced contamination problems.

THIS WEEK IN ENERGY NEWS

Trump Officials Still Pushing for a Coal Bailout, Regulator Says

By Stephen Cunningham

High ranking officials in the Trump administration are still pushing to bail out money-losing coal plants, more than a year after an earlier proposal to revive the industry failed.

FERC's Review Process Called 'Kafkaesque' by D.C. Cir. Judge

By Porter Wells

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decision to allow construction to begin on the Transcontinental Pipeline's Atlantic Sunrise expansion was upheld by the D.C. Circuit Aug. 2.

FERC's Heavy Workload Demands Openings Be Filled, Murkowski Says

By Stephen Cunningham

The nation's top energy regulator needs help to handle a heavy workload in the wake of the imminent loss of a second commissioner this year.

THIS WEEK'S TOP INSIGHTS

INSIGHT: Weight-of-Evidence Best Way to Manage Chemical Risks

Chemical management is evolving toward weight-of-evidence approaches, methods that focus on the quality and relevance of discrete pieces of information about the nature and impact of a chemical's health impacts, three Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry members write.

INSIGHT: Will SCOTUS Rule on Agency Deference for Dual Civil and Criminal Regimes

The Supreme Court recently upheld deference for federal agencies interpreting their own rules. Skadden attorneys say the court's willingness to scrutinize deference may signal an opportunity to petition for a ruling on whether it extends to interpretations of laws and rules with criminal and administrative penalties.

INSIGHT: China Drafts Changes to Chemical Registration Rules

China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment has released draft revisions to its registration requirements for new chemical substances and provides welcomed reforms, write Brian Xu and Jane Vergnes, of The Acta Group, and Carla Hutton of Bergeson & Campbell PC.

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